MOON KNIGHT™

LEMIRE / STOKOE / FRANCAVILLA

#7

MARVEL

MERCENARY MARC SPECTOR DIED IN EGYPT UNDER A STATUE OF THE MOON GOD KHONSHU. IN THE SHADOW OF THE ANCIENT DEITY, MARC RETURNED TO LIFE AND TOOK ON KHONSHU'S ASPECT TO FIGHT CRIME FOR HIS OWN REDEMPTION. BUT **MOON KNIGHT** WAS JUST ONE OF A FEW IDENTITIES MARC USED TO PROTECT THOSE WHO TRAVEL BY NIGHT: CABBIE **JAKE LOCKLEY** KEPT HIS EAR TO THE GROUND, AND FINANCIER AND FILM PRODUCER **STEVEN GRANT** FUNDED THE OPERATION. EVENTUALLY, MARC WENT COMPLETELY INSANE AND DISAPPEARED. HE RETURNED TO CONTINUE HIS FIGHT, IN SPITE OF HIS TENUOUS GRIP ON REALITY.

MOON KNIGHT

INCARNATIONS: PART 2 OF 4

MARC SPECTOR ESCAPED FROM KHONSHU AND WOKE UP AS STEVEN GRANT. IN ADDITION TO THE TYPICAL HEADACHES FACED BY HOLLYWOOD PRODUCERS, GRANT WAS TRYING TO KEEP UP WITH HIS MEDICATION AND FIND HIS BEARINGS AS HE SOMETIMES TUMBLED INTO MARC SPECTOR'S OTHER IDENTITIES.

FROM HIS TAXI, JAKE LOCKLEY SEES A LURID, SORDID NEW YORK CITY WITHOUT FEAR, READY TO DON THE WHITE COWL WHEN IT IS TIME TO ACT. BUT SOMETHING HAS HIM OFF-BALANCE—THERE ARE GAPS IN HIS MEMORY.

FROM THE PILOT'S SEAT OF *MOON KNIGHT ONE*, MARC SPECTOR CAN SEE THE MOON BASE THAT IS HUMANITY'S LAST HOPE, AND THE FLEET OF SPACE WOLVES THAT WANT TO TAKE IT. MARC CAN STOP GENERAL LUPINAR...IF ONLY HE CAN STAY FOCUSED.

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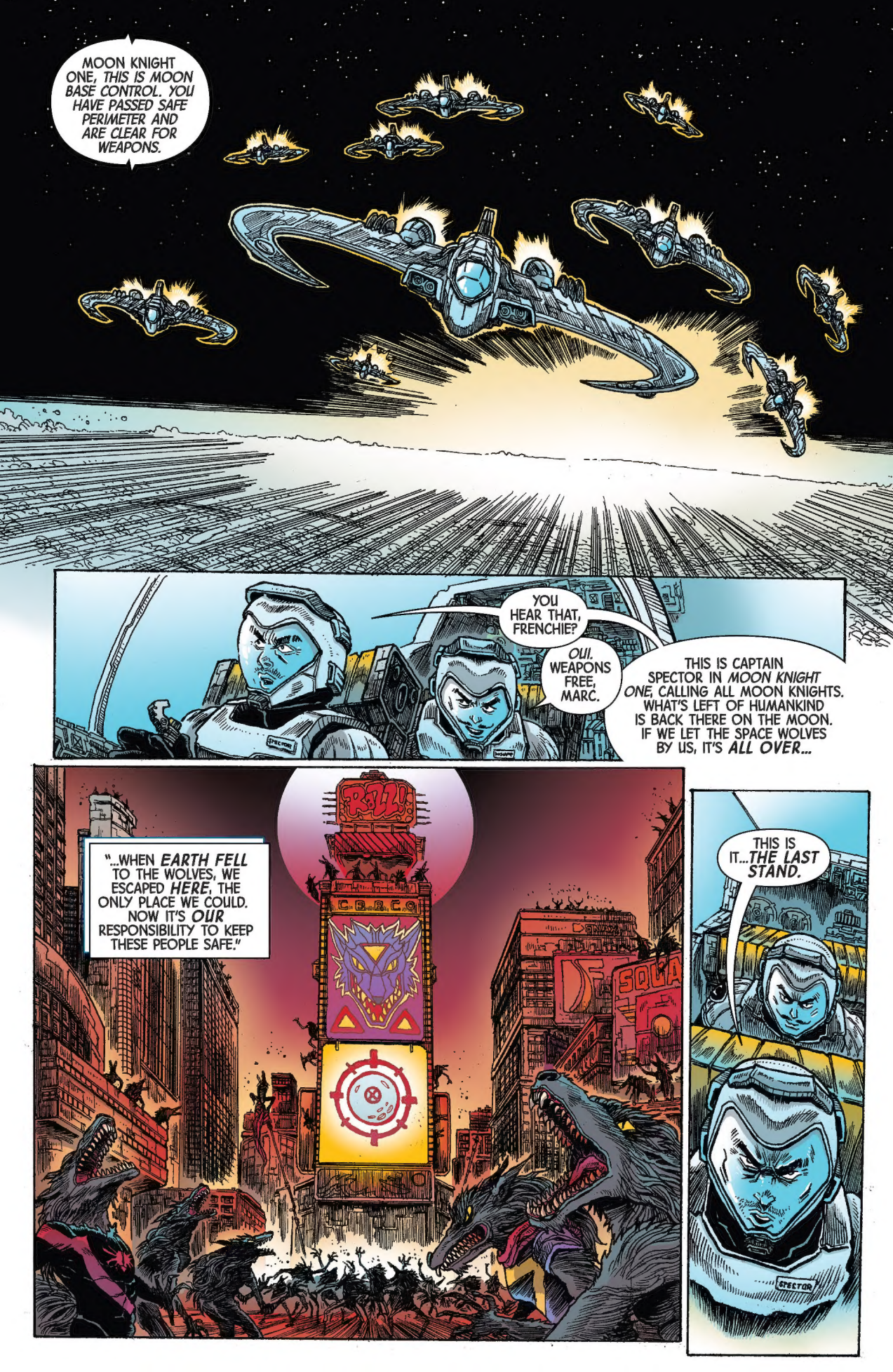

MOON KNIGHT ONE, THIS IS MOON BASE CONTROL. YOU HAVE PASSED SAFE PERIMETER AND ARE CLEAR FOR WEAPONS.
YOU HEAR THAT, FRENCHIE?
OUI. WEAPONS FREE, MARC.
THIS IS CAPTAIN SPECTOR IN MOON KNIGHT ONE, CALLING ALL MOON KNIGHTS. WHAT'S LEFT OF HUMANKIND IS BACK THERE ON THE MOON. IF WE LET THE SPACE WOLVES BY US, IT'S ALL OVER...
"...WHEN EARTH FELL TO THE WOLVES, WE ESCAPED HERE, THE ONLY PLACE WE COULD. NOW IT'S OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KEEP THESE PEOPLE SAFE."
THIS IS IT...THE LAST STAND.
SPECTOR

...LET'S GO WOLF HUNTING!

MARC, DO YOU SEE THAT, MON AMI? THAT FIGHTER IS CUTTING THROUGH OUR DEFENSES.
I SEE HIM. THAT MUST BE LUPINAR'S SHIP...NO OTHER SPACE WOLF CAN FLY LIKE THAT.
I'M GOING AFTER HIM!
GENERAL LUPINAR, THAT IS MOON KNIGHT ONE ON YOUR TAIL!
YES! COME, LITTLE MOON KNIGHTS. I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.
GENERAL, YOU'RE VEERING OFF COURSE!
JUST KEEP THE PACKS MOVING TOWARDS THE MOON WITH THE TRANSPORT SHIPS.

WE NEED THE MOON BASE PREPPED FOR *THE MASTER.*
I'M GOING AFTER SPECTOR!
GHOOM
GHOOM
ZUT ALORS!
HOLD ON, FRENCHIE!
LOOK, COMING FROM EARTH! IT--IT'S *MASSIVE.* I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING LIKE IT. MUST BE SOME KIND OF *COMMAND SHIP.*

I SEE IT, MARC, BUT WE HAVE MORE IMMEDIATE CONCERNS. LUPINAR IS STILL BEHIND US.

SPECTOR

NOT FOR LONG.

OFF DUTY TAXI

MARC?!

MARC? WHAT ARE YOU--

EARTH, FRENCHIE... I-I WAS BACK ON EARTH.

LOOK OUT!

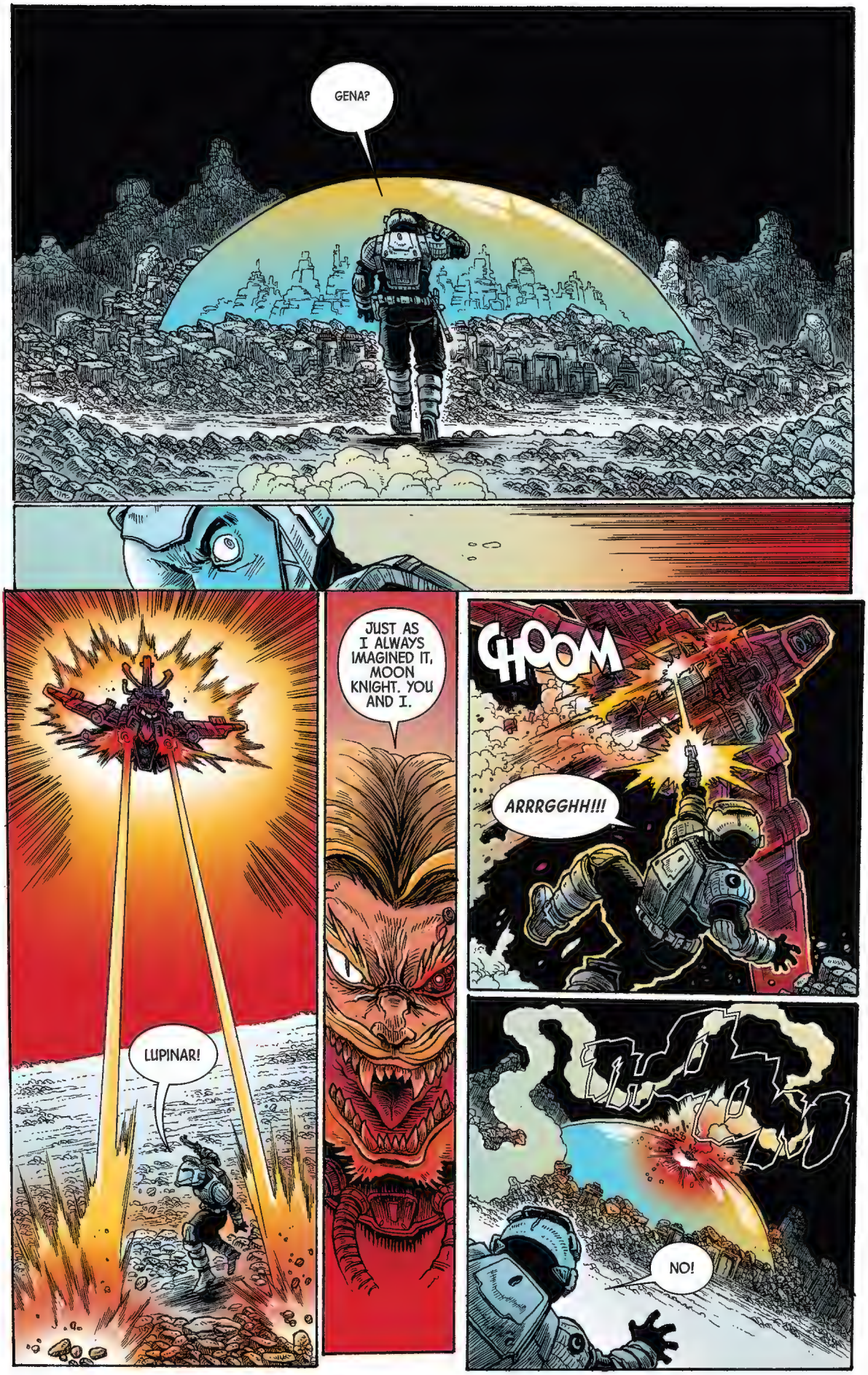
OH #$%#!

CHOOOM
RAAAAASH

WE'RE GOING DOWN! HOLD ON!
OOF-- ONE HELL OF A LANDING, SORRY, FRENCHIE.
THEY--THEY'RE TEARING US APART! I-I DON'T THINK WE CAN HOLD THEM OFF.
FRENCHIE?

TAXI
F-FRENCHIE? JEAN-PAUL?
JUST LIKE THAT, MY WORLD IS TURNED UPSIDE DOWN.

FRENCHIE--JEAN-PAUL DUCHAMP, MY CLOSEST FRIEND--IS DEAD. THE CACOPHONY OF NEW YORK CITY AT NIGHT LAUGHS AT ME.
I COULD--I COULD HAVE SWORN I WAS SOMEWHERE ELSE FOR A MINUTE THERE--BUT THE ACCIDENT--IT WASN'T MY FAULT...
...WAS IT?
NO...NO, THE DRIVER OF THE OTHER CAR, HE'S GONE. HE DROVE OFF. A HIT-AND-RUN.
I HAVE THE WORST HEADACHE. FEEL LIKE MY BRAIN IS GOING TO SPLIT OPEN AND SPILL OUT INTO THE FILTHY GUTTERS.
GENA. I-I'LL SEE GENA, SHE'LL KNOW WHAT TO DO.


GENA?
LUPINAR!
JUST AS I ALWAYS IMAGINED IT, MOON KNIGHT. YOU AND I.
GHOOM
ARRRGGHH!!!
NO!

THIS IS MOON BASE ALPHA CALLING ALL MOON KNIGHTS. WE ARE UNDER DIRECT ATTACK! I REPEAT---MOON BASE IS UNDER SIEGE!
BEEP
THIS IS MOON KNIGHT ONE TO MOON BASE.
SPECTOR
HOLD THE FORT, PEOPLE...
CH-CHK!
CH-CHK!
...I'M ON MY WAY!

LUPINAR!

CHOOM

SEAL THE BREACH!

YES, SIR! WE'RE TRYING!

ch-CHK! ch-CHK!

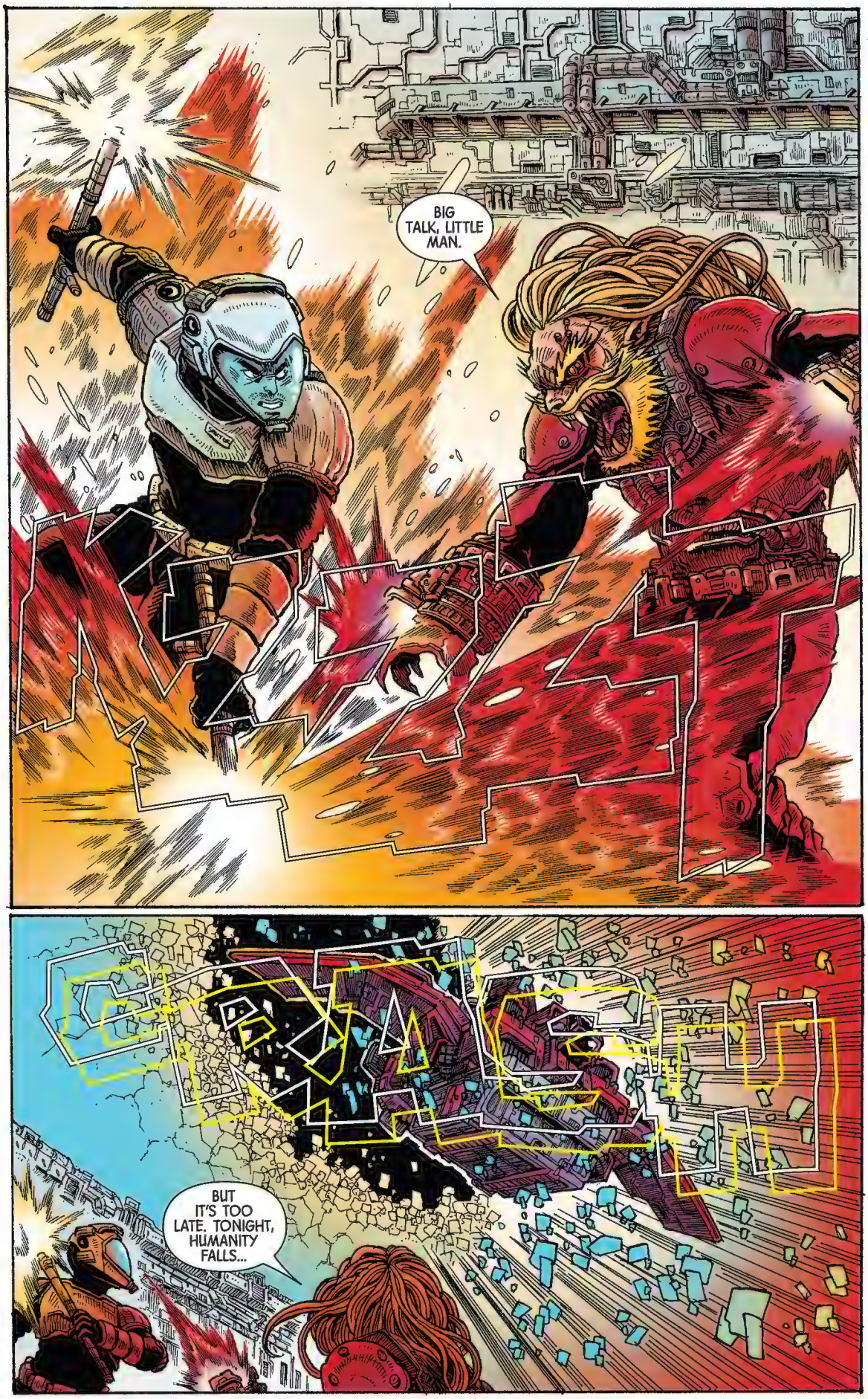
IT'S OVER, SPECTOR. YOU WERE THE FIRST OF THE MOON KNIGHTS...

...AND NOW YOU'RE THE LAST.

SZZZT

I'M GOING TO KILL YOU, LUPINAR... THEN I'M GOING TO *TAKE YOUR HEAD.*

ZZZT


BIG TALK, LITTLE MAN.
BUT IT'S TOO LATE. TONIGHT, HUMANITY FALLS...

...AND WOLFKIND RISES!

THIS ISN'T REAL. THIS CAN'T BE HAPPENING.
DON'T FIGHT IT, SPECTOR. LET ME TURN YOU.
BECOME ONE OF US!
ARRRGH!!!

NO!
DINER GENA
THAT WAS ONE HELL OF A NIGHTMARE... I--MUST HAVE BLACKED OUT. HEAD IS THROBBING, TOO. MAYBE I GOT A CONCUSSION IN THE...CRASH?
SOMETHING DOESN'T ADD UP. I REMEMBER CRASHING THE TAXI, BUT IT LOOKS TOTALLY FINE.
FRENCHIE?
THIS NIGHT JUST GETS WEIRDER AND WEIRDER. AND WOULDN'T YOU KNOW IT, A FULL MOON.
DING
GENA, I NEED A STRONG CUP OF COFFEE.
BUT I KNOW SOMETHING AIN'T RIGHT BEFORE I EVEN OPEN THE DOOR...

...I SMELL THE BLOOD BEFORE I SEE ANY.
LEMIRE
GENA!
EEEEEE
SKREE
WE KNOW YOU'RE IN THERE, MARC SPECTOR!
COME OUT WITH YOUR HANDS UP!
TO BE CONTINUED...

MOONIE MISSIVES

Write to mheroes@marvel.com and mark your letters "OKAY TO PRINT."

Hello, Moonies!

MOON KNIGHT scribe Jeff Lemire managed to clear some time in his schedule to take on your letters, and we couldn't be more thrilled to turn over answering duties to our author extraordinaire! Take it away, Jeff!

To all the talented people who make MOON KNIGHT,

Months ago, I didn't know Moon Knight. I had only seen him in Marvel video games. Then, when I heard that there would be a new series written by Jeff Lemire, one of my favorite writers, I decided to give it a try. So, I read the first issue, and it was perfect. I loved it so much that I decided to read everything about the character. All was excellent.

Now, let's talk about the series itself. The first issue was a great entering point for the character and, of course, the new series. The story is very original and the "insane" side is brilliant. The art of Greg Smallwood is amazing. The two styles he uses are both great: Khonshu's scenes are incredible and the main story is beautiful. Jordie Bellaire's colors fit perfectly. Every cover astonishes me, especially the one for the #5 issue, it's one of the best comic book covers I have ever seen. Every month, when I finish reading an issue, I want to read the next one immediately. The series quickly became one of my favorites. Moon Knight is now my favorite Marvel super hero.

Thank you, Marvel, and the fantastic creative team for this extraordinary series.

Adam K.

Thanks so much, Adam. And I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has been buying MOON KNIGHT. This book has been incredibly rewarding to work on. I sort of feel it was just the perfect character at the perfect time for me. And when I got paired with Greg and Jordie, it was my lucky day. They both bring so much to the book, this is a collaboration in the truest sense. I feel like all three of us are doing some of the best work of our careers together.

Dear MOON KNIGHT team,

I forgot to mark the last letter as "Okay to Print." Hopefully you'll take this one!

I absolutely love what you're doing with the character. In the last two runs of MOON KNIGHT, he's gone from something I knew little about to one of my favorite heroes to collect. He's underexposed outside of comics, so it's exciting to see what's brought to the table as I pick up each issue.

The quick, clever writing and the dreamy artwork are enough to get lost in, but the trippy cover art alone is worth the shelf price!

The new twist of using Marc's illness against him to question his very identity is extraordinary, especially that cliffhanger at the end of #4. I can't wait to see what else you put this poor guy through.

A traveler of the night,
Max Goettemoeller

Thank you, Max! And yes, lets talk about those covers. I think Greg is officially doing the best cover in comics at the moment with MOON KNIGHT. I may be a bit biased, but I think they are just perfect.

And thanks for reading. If you like the first arc, you haven't seen anything yet. My initial pitch for MK was pretty much, "Giant Pyramids in a New York City half buried with sand and Werewolves on the Moon." Thank God, Nick Lowe didn't hang up the phone.

Whaddup, Doubletake Jake!

Thank you so much to the team for taking my favorite character for such a crazy-awesome ride. I have one question: Is this all the work of Morpheus?! Because I am freaking out over here.

Thanks,
Adam Prine

Is it Morpheus?! Now you have me freaking out!!

Hey Jake,

Issue #1 wasn't a fluke. This first arc is shaping up really well with a nice variation on the doppelgänger cliffhanger trope. Lemire knows what he's doing.

Greg's cover is a simple idea of the fragility or illusion of love illustrated by shifting sands of the lovers' possibly incorporeal bodies blowing off the page. Beautiful execution by Greg helped immensely.

I can't wait for issue #5. Great to see two pages of reader reaction at the back in "Moonie Missives." Stan the Man would be proud of the amazing alliteration.

Cheers,
Bruce Marsh
Newbury Park, England

Thanks, Brad. It was a fluke, though. Greg and Jordie just made me look like I knew what I was doing, so I rolled with it. Jordie is one of the best in the business, no doubt about it. And she and Greg seem so perfect together on the page. I think colorists are very underrated and overlooked in our industry. They are crucial to the storytelling and deserve way more recognition than they get. So thanks for the letter!

Hi Jake,

This book gets better and better. Jeff knows this character. The guest artists were a really nice touch, illustrating the separate personalities that make up the complicated Marc Spector. Any relation to amazing "Wall of Sound" producer and not-so-amazing convicted murderer, Phil Spector?

It's great that the guest artists are staying for the next arc. Here's my vote for an entire Francesco Francavilla issue, pretty please.

Cheers,
Bruce Marsh
Newbury Park, England

Hey, wait a minute. Didn't you

just write us a letter, Bruce?! How many Bruces are there? Have you been seeing anything unusual lately, Bruce? Skull-headed guys in white suits?

And as for the guest artists…full credit to Jake Thomas and Kathleen Wisneski, our fearless editors, for assembling such an eclectic and talented team. Francesco, Wilfredo, and James are each so perfect for the different "realities" they are illustrating. And I, too, would be game for a full Francesco issue! I love him and his work.

Hi Jake,

I'm surprised Moon Knight was given a new series so soon after Warren Ellis' series ended (with Cullen Bunn taking over writing duties). I was more surprised that we were getting more of the same. A series centered around Moon Knight's mental health issues. My first thought was, "haven't we seen this already?" I know Moon Knight has these issues, however there is so much more about Moon Knight that makes him an interesting character.

Granted, Jeff's written the series well, despite the setting being tried and tested. A hero in a mental health facility, trying to discern what is real and what is fact. Again, my thought goes back to, "haven't we seen this already?"

I know Jeff's a superb writer so I'm interested to see where he takes us throughout this series. I hope it's not something we've seen before.

Kind regards,
Maarten Bouw
Melbourne, Australia

I respect your opinion, Maarten, and I also appreciate you sticking with the book, despite your reservations, and waiting to see where it is headed before totally writing us off. All I can say is that, while some of the set up may be twists on conventions you've seen before, I am trying my best to make something new, exciting, and special with the character of Marc Spector.

And, for me at least, it is Marc's mental illness that makes him unique. It is what attracted me to the book. Without that aspect, he is just another vigilante in a cape. So I wanted to lean into that and do my best to use a super hero to explore mental illness and also, hopefully, to tell a thrilling story that takes tropes and conventions then twists them inside out and upside down into something new.

I just wanted to let the creative team know just how much I am enjoying their run on MOON KNIGHT. Jeff Lemire's writing is fantastic on MOON KNIGHT, along with his other current work, and he's becoming one of my all-time favorites. The way he leaves the reader guessing is a great talent. I think a Moon Knight movie could also be something great if done correctly. Also, please keep the letters page open, as it is a special way for the readers to connect with the creative team. I don't understand why it isn't done more often nowadays; it really should be a standard. And please print my letter as I never win anything, and literally have the luck of Marc Spector...horror stories still abound at the psyche ward.

Thanks!
Ramcey Perdomo

Ramcey, thanks for the letter. I'm going to do my best to personally respond to the letters from now on,and I miss letters pages in comics, too. And thanks for supporting my work! But I'm only as good as my collaborators, and Greg and Jordie are two of the best.

I want to start by saying that I am thoroughly impressed with the level of storytelling that Lemire brings to this current MOON KNIGHT series. It's utterly enthralling, and I'm happy that a beloved character of mine is getting his due. I won't even get started on the combined artistic talent of Smallwood and Bellaire. We'd be here all day. They're simply the best at Marvel right now, in my opinion, and it's a delight to take in their work.

Now that the praise is out of the way, I feel like I have to take this opportunity to talk about something very personal. At the time of writing this, I have just recently finished reading MOON KNIGHT #5, the final issue in this first incredible arc. While reading, I couldn't help but think of my late uncle Richard. I was young when he died. He had been brilliant and kind, a star athlete, and a gifted mind. However, his life took a dark turn. He suffered from severe depression and schizophrenia, and he eventually took his own life in a violent collision. I remember learning that he had believed that he would be able to go back to a better time in his life after death. A sort of reincarnation, perhaps. When Marc Spector leaps from the top of that pyramid and sees flashes of his friends and loved ones, I can't help but think of my uncle. Did he think of us before his own fateful collision? Did he have that same look of dreadful determination that Marc Spector has when he awaits that horrible contact with the sand and stone? This issue has allowed me to think about my uncle's death in ways I had never been able to before. I can finally process it, and in some way, it has allowed me to finally reflect and heal from such loss. So, thank you, all of you. Thank you so much, from the bottom of my heart, for telling this story. Thank you for allowing one of my favorite characters in the modern mythology that is comic books to act as a healing figure for the loss and pain that I could never process before. I'll continue to devour every single issue from this amazing series. And who knows? Maybe, like Steven Grant, my uncle woke up to a new, beautiful day in a better life, overcome with relief. I like to think so. I like to think that he finally found peace. As for Marc Spector? Well, I can't wait to find out.

Sincerely,
Simone Mularkey

Simone. Thank you for sharing this, it means a lot to know that the work we do can affect someone so deeply. I'm almost at a loss as to how to properly respond to your letter, it's touched me so much. All I can say is that now that I've read your letter, and learned about your uncle Richard, I will be thinking of him, too, I as I write each issue ofMoon Knight from this point on.

Thanks for the awesome answers, Jeff! And thanks to all of you for writing in! Please keep the letters flowing in and we'll see you next month! (Especially you, Bruce Marsh! We'll have lots of glorious Francesco Francavilla art for you.)

Stay weird!
-Doubletake Jake T.

DEADLIEST MAN ALIVE

Oroboros is the undefeated Supreme Grand Master of the Fighting Arts. Oroboros won the World Overall Fighting Arts Championship (Master & Expert Divisions) after defeating the world's top Masters of JUDO, BOXING, WRESTLING, KUNG-FU, KARATE, AIKIDO, etc. in Death Matches. On Aug. 1, 1967, the World Federation of Fighting Arts crowned Oroboros "THE WORLD'S DEADLIEST FIGHTING ARTS CHAMPION AND MASTER."

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